THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Appointment of judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No information is maintained for caste or class etc.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Appointment of District Judges and other judges of the subordinate courts is made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the respective High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such States under the provisions of articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India.

Appeal cases before Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Tribunal

1062. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are huge arrears of appeal cases before Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Tribunal (formerly Board);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to dispose of cases involving penalty up to Rs. 1 lakh by general waiver to reduce the backlog; and

(d) the other measures proposed to reduce the back long?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) On the abolition of the Foreign Exchange Appellate Board on 1 6.2000, 5401 pending cases were transferred to the

Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange. Upto 31.12.2000,390 fresh appeals have been filed before the Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) The posts of the Chairperson and full-time Members of the Appellate Tribunal are being filled up on regular basis. With the Appellate Tribunal shortly becoming fully functional, the pendency is expected to reduce.

Delimitation of Lok Sabha Seats

† 1063. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received certain suggestions from the State Governments for delimitation of some Lok Sabha seats;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Governments of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have sought extension of the current constitutional embargo on undertaking fresh readjustment of electoral constituencies. In this regard, Government has already introduced a Bill, namely, the Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha, on 27.11.2000 seeking to further extend the constitutional embargo on undertaking fresh delimitation of electoral constituencies up to the year 2026 AD and simultaneously to undertake readjustment and rationalization of electoral constituencies, including those reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, based on the population census for the year 1991, without affecting the number of seats allocated to States in the legislative bodies. The bill is under examination by the Department related Standing Committee of Parliament for HomeAffairs.

† Original notice of Question was received in Hindi.